

Please replace the paragraph on page 2, lines 3 through 9 with the following:

A 2
Known electronic fund transfer systems generally require a "trusted" third party between the vendor and consumer to authenticate the validity of the electronic funds. The requirement of a third party adds expense to every transaction because of the cost of extra communications and encryption. In addition, current electronic fund transfer networks, e.g., Western Union and Federal Reserve banks, typically require physically secure communications media which are immune to "eavesdropping." Such secure networks are generally not available to consumers at large.

Please replace the paragraph at page 4, lines 14 through 23 with the following:

A 3
The above needs are met by a method and system for electronic commerce that provides relative anonymity for regular purchases but optionally allows the vendor to quickly and easily verify the identity of a consumer seeking a refund. The system includes a broker computer system having a database of vendor scrips, each vendor scrip representing a form of electronic currency. The system also includes a vendor computer system having a database containing products which may be exchanged for the vendor scrips, the vendor computer system capable of providing vendor scrips. In addition, the system includes a consumer computer system having a user interface whereby a consumer may initiate transactions in the consumer computer system to obtain one or more of the products contained in the database of the vendor computer system.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims ~~1~~ and 2.